

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Withdrawn) A composite shoddy for use for use in automotive applications comprising:

an organic material having a predetermined density defining an organic bottom layer;

a scrim material having a predetermined density defining a scrim top layer;

a mastic material having a predetermined density defining a mastic middle layer operatively disposed between said organic bottom layer and said scrim top layer;

said scrim top layer adapted to operatively engage a surface material and accommodate movement of a surface material in the shear direction.

2. (Withdrawn) The composite shoddy as set forth in claim 1 wherein said organic bottom layer is a fibrous material adapted to provide an aesthetic cushion.

3. (Withdrawn) The composite shoddy as set forth in claim 2 wherein said organic fibrous material includes a cotton base material.

4. (Withdrawn) The composite shoddy as set forth in claim 1 wherein said organic bottom layer further includes an engaging side adapted to operatively engage said mastic middle layer through an adhesive bond.

5. (Withdrawn) The composite shoddy as set forth in claim 1 wherein said predetermined density of said mastic middle layer is greater than said predetermined densities of said

organic bottom layer and said scrim top layer, said mastic middle layer adapted to provide vibration dampening and sound dampening.

6. (Withdrawn) The composite shoddy as set forth in claim 5 wherein said mastic middle layer includes a bituminous base material.

7. (Withdrawn) The composite shoddy as set forth in claim 1 wherein said mastic middle layer includes a first surface and a second surface opposite said first surface, said first surface adapted to engage said organic bottom layer and said second surface adapted to operatively engage said scrim top layer.

8. (Withdrawn) The composite shoddy as set forth in claim 1 wherein said scrim top layer is a non-woven material adapted to prevent adhesion between a first composite shoddy and a second composite shoddy placed in a stacking configuration.

9. (Withdrawn) The composite shoddy as set forth in claim 1 wherein said scrim top layer includes a contact surface to operatively engage said mastic middle layer and a receiving surface opposite said contact surface.

10. (Withdrawn) The composite shoddy as set forth in claim 9 wherein said receiving surface is adapted to operatively engage the B-side of a non-carpeted surface material adapted for use in automotive applications, said scrim top layer adapted to facilitate movement of a non-carpeted surface layer in the shear direction relative to said mastic middle layer.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a composite shoddy for use as underlayment for a surface material in automotive applications comprising the steps of:

providing an organic base material defining an ~~organic~~ a shoddy bottom layer having an engaging surface;

providing a mastic material defining a mastic middle layer having a first surface and a second surface opposite said first surface;

bonding said engaging surface of said ~~organic~~ shoddy bottom layer to said first surface of said mastic middle layer;

providing a scrim material defining a scrim top layer having a mastic contact surface and a receiving surface opposite said mastic contact surface; and

bonding said second surface of said mastic middle layer to said mastic contact surface of said scrim top layer to form a composite shoddy wherein said receiving surface of said scrim top layer is adapted to operatively engage a non-carpeted surface material for use in automotive applications.

12. (Original) The method of manufacturing a composite shoddy as set forth in claim 11 wherein the step of providing a mastic material further includes any of the following steps:

providing said mastic middle layer where said mastic middle layer is tacky;

providing said mastic middle layer where said mastic middle layer is tack-free.

13. (Currently amended) The method of manufacturing a composite shoddy as set forth in claim 12 wherein the step of bonding said engaging surface of said ~~shoddyorganic~~ shoddy bottom layer to said first surface of said mastic middle layer further includes one or more of the following steps:

applying an adhesive to said engaging surface of said ~~shoddyorganic~~ shoddy bottom layer or;

applying an adhesive to said first surface of said mastic middle layer or;

heating said mastic middle layer to bond said first surface to said engaging surface of said ~~shoddy~~organic bottom layer or;

placing said first surface of said mastic middle layer into contact with said engaging surface of said ~~shoddy~~organic bottom layer where said mastic middle layer is tacky.

14. (Currently amended) The method of manufacturing a composite shoddy as set forth in claim 11 wherein the step of bonding said engaging surface of said ~~shoddy~~organic bottom layer to said first surface of said mastic middle layer further includes the steps of:

placing said ~~shoddy~~organic bottom layer into a die to define a corresponding to a predetermined form;

extruding a mastic material into said die such that said extruded mastic material operatively engages said engaging surface of said ~~shoddy~~organic bottom layer;

forming a mastic middle layer having a first surface bonded to said engaging surface of said ~~shoddy~~organic bottom layer and a second surface opposite said first surface in a die.

15. (Original) The method of manufacturing a composite shoddy as set forth in claim 12 wherein the step of bonding said second surface of said mastic middle layer to said mastic contact surface of said scrim top layer further includes one or more of the following steps:

applying an adhesive to said second surface of said mastic middle layer or;

applying an adhesive to said mastic contact surface of said scrim top layer or;

heating said mastic middle layer to bond said mastic contact surface of said scrim top layer
or;

placing said second surface of said mastic middle layer into contact with said mastic contact surface of said scrim top layer where said mastic middle layer is tacky.

16. (Original) The method of manufacturing a composite shoddy as set forth in claim 11 wherein the step of bonding said second surface of said mastic middle layer to said mastic contact surface of said scrim top layer further includes the steps of :

placing said scrim top layer into a die corresponding to a predetermined form;

extruding a mastic material into said die such that said injected mastic material operatively engages said mastic contact surface of said scrim top layer;

forming a mastic middle layer having a first surface and a second surface opposite said first surface, said second surface bonded to said mastic contact surface of said scrim top layer.

17. (Original) The method of manufacturing a composite shoddy as set forth in claim 11 further comprises the step of operatively engaging said receiving surface of said scrim top layer to a non-carpeted surface material for use in automotive applications, the non-carpeted surface material having a substantially planar cross-section including an A-side and a B-side opposite the A-side.

18. (Currently amended) The method of manufacturing a composite shoddy as set forth in claim 11 wherein the step of operatively engaging said receiving surface of said scrim top layer to a non-carpeted surface material for use in an automotive applications further includes one of the following steps:

placing said receiving surface of said scrim top layer in contact with the B-side of a non-carpeted surface material between 2 and 125 seconds after forming the non-carpeted surface material;

applying an adhesive to said receiving surface of said scrim top layer;

applying an adhesive to the B-side of a non-carpeted surface material;

heating the B-side of a non-carpeted surface material to bond said receiving surface to the B-side of a non-carpeted surface material[[]].